

Reaching Out in Region 4

Curriculum Assessment and Instruction

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Volume 2 Issue 4

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Curriculum Assessment and Instruction Alignment

Why should assessments, learning objectives, and instructional strategies be aligned? Assessments should reveal how well students have learned what we want them to learn while instruction ensures that they learn it. For this to occur, assessments, learning objectives, and instructional strategies need to be closely aligned so that they reinforce one another. To ensure that these three components of your course are aligned, ask yourself the following questions:

- **Learning objectives:** What do I want students to know how to do when they leave this course?
- **Assessments:** What kinds of tasks will reveal whether students have achieved the learning objectives I have identified?

Instructional strategies: What kinds of activities in and out of class will reinforce my learning objectives and prepare students for assessments?

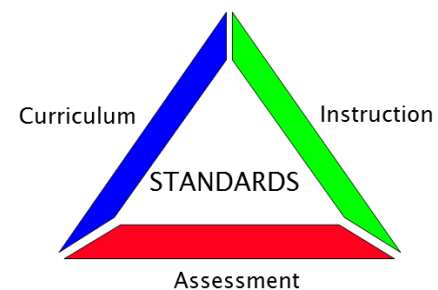
What if the components of a course are misaligned?

If assessments are misaligned with learning objectives or instructional strategies, it can

undermine both student motivation and learning. Consider these two scenarios:
Your objective is for students to learn to *apply analytical skills*, but your assessment measures only *factual recall*. Consequently, students hone their analytical skills and are frustrated that the exam does not measure what they learned.

Your assessment measures students' ability to *compare and critique* the arguments of different authors, but your instructional strategies focus entirely on *summarizing* the arguments of different authors. Consequently, students do not learn or practice the skills of comparison and evaluation that will be assessed.

<http://www.cmu.edu/teaching/assessment/basics/alignment.html>



Does One Size Fit All in Instruction?

The Secret to Homework: It's Independent Practice

[Timothy D. Kanold](#)

Does one-size-fits-all really save time if students haven't learned? The learning quality of differentiated instruction far surpasses anything that a single-delivery model can provide. If differentiated instruction is viewed as part of the planning process, the additional planning time is not noticeably different. If managed well, differentiation becomes a seamless part of instruction that does not add time. Instead, it enhances the

existing learning experiences by ensuring that students build understanding and mastery sooner. Avoid the microwave oven approach. Differentiated instruction is a necessity if we hope to ensure that all students will learn. The main course of lessons requires quality time for students to consume learning outcomes, and for teachers to coach and guide. How we use our time can

allow learning experiences to marinate with students long after the lesson is finished. The key to meeting students' needs is differentiating when time feels limited. As educators, we are highly qualified professionals who have the tools to be innovative chefs of our time frames. If we don't meet learner needs, who will?

[John McCarthy](#)

NOTHING IS
IMPOSSIBLE,
THE WORD
ITSELF SAYS,
"I'M POSSIBLE!"

— AUDREY HEPBURN

School Performance Awards

School Performance Awards to be distributed no later than December 5, 2014 directly to your corporation.

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Formula Overview](#)

Accuplacer Updates

The 2014-15 ACCUPLACER testing window is **January 22 – April 1, 2015.**

- The test window is divided into two parts:
Part 1: January 22 – February 20, 2015
Part 2: February 25 – April 1, 2015
- *Schools should plan to administer the assessment to juniors who meet the State Board-adopted criteria during Part 1.*
Please see attached for the **participation criteria**.
Watch for more guidance in the next weeks regarding when to test students
- Please see attached for an **updated** set of 2014-15 ACCUPLACER training dates.
- ACCUPLACER Study Guide Web App
Please see attached for information regarding the ACCUPLACER Study Guide Web App.

Mr. Tim Heller,
superintendent of the
Muncie Community
Schools, was presented
the chamber's Excellence
in Public Service Award for
his many years of service
to the students and
communities in which he
has served."

Dr. Jennifer McCormick,
superintendent of York-
town Community Schools,
was presented the Out-
standing Contribution to
Education Award for lead-
ing Yorktown "to recogni-
tion at the state and na-
tional level..." -Muncie
Delaware County Chamber
of Commerce

Resources

[Links](#)

[Hoosiers and the American Story Free Download](#)

[Excellence in Performance Award Cohort II FAQ](#)

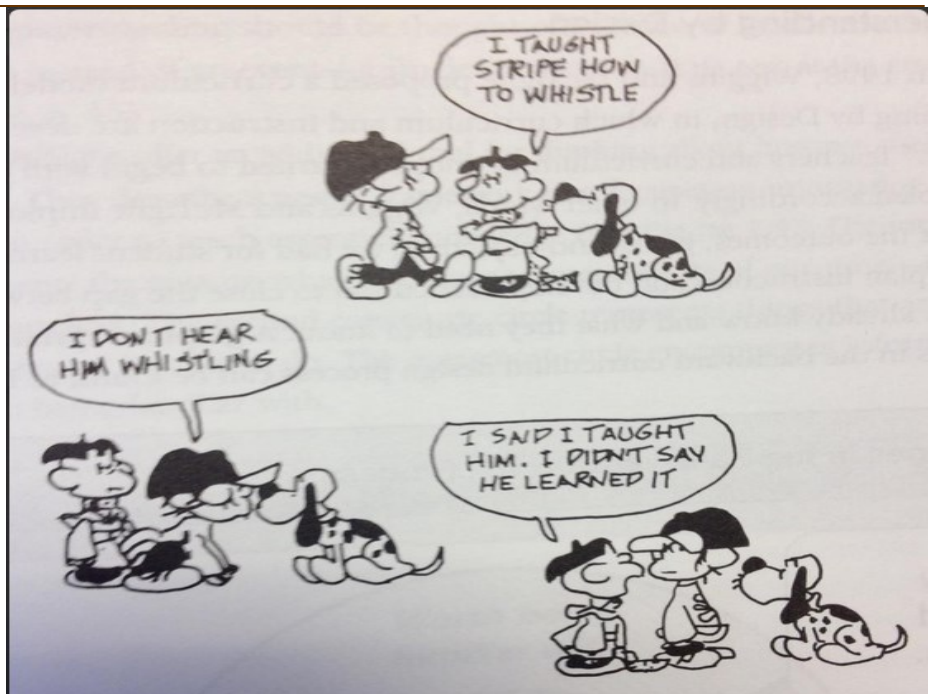
[Math Science Partnership Grant](#)

[New School Bus Specifications](#)

[11th Annual Indiana Conference on Learning February 26, 2015](#)

[PBS Kids making Math and Science Accessible to Kids Through Technology and Television](#)

[Summer Science Seminar for Middle School Teachers](#)



Pine View High